

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247660
ORIGIN ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 EUR-12 CA-01 IO-14 AID-05
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NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHY;UM, PA

SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE - PARAGUAY

REF: A) ASUNCION 4151, B) ASUNCION 4086 AND PREVIOUS
C) ASUNCION 4150

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON CURRENT
STATUS OF HUNGER STRIKE, INCLUDING EMBASSY'S COMMENTS
REFTEL B AND RESULTS OF GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S INITIA-
TIVE REFTEL A.

2. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE DELICACY OF SUGGESTING TO
SUPPORTERS THAT THEY COUNSEL HUNGER STRIKERS TO END
STRIKE, WE SHARE VERY SERIOUS CONCERN THAT STRIKERS
MAY PERMANENTLY IMPAIR HEALTH SHOULD THEY NOT DO SO.

3. IN VIEW OF BESTARD ASSURANCES TO GERMAN AMBASSADOR,
WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH GOP ACTIONS THUS FAR, WE
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PAGE 02 STATE 247660

SHARE HOPE THAT ENDING HUNGER STRIKE WOULD LEAD TO
RELEASE OF PRISONERS, THUS MARKEDLY REDUCING POLITICAL
PRISONER POPULATION - A MAJOR GOAL. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED
POSSIBILITY THAT GOP WILL SUBSEQUENTLY SCHEDULE IAHR
VISIT.

4. DEPARTMENT THEREFORE CONCURS WITH EMBASSY RECOMMEND-

ATION THAT BOTH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS FIND

APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO QUIETLY COUNSEL INTERESTED
PARTIES THAT ENDING HUNGER STRIKE NOW SHOULD BE SERIOUS-
LY CONSIDERED. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE YOU
SHOULD SECOND, AT PROPER LEVEL IN GOP, GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S
INITIATIVE RELAYING CONCERN OVER HUNGER STRIKE AND
POSSIBILITY THAT STRIKE MAY CLAIM VICTIMS AND TO REQUEST
INFORMAL INDICATION ON PROSPECTS FOR RELEASE OF REMAIN-
ING PRISONERS. AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO
MENTION OUR INTEREST IN EARLY IAHRC VISIT. CHRISTOPHER

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